REMARKS

Status Summary

In this Amendment, no claims are canceled, and claims 45-50 are added Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, 1-50 will be pending.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,721,405 to Nolting et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 41 recites a peg count collection system including a signaling message routing node and a general-purpose computing platform external to the signaling message routing node. The signaling message routing node includes a plurality of processing modules located within the signaling message routing node for generating peg count information based on the received or processed signaling messages. The signaling message routing node further includes a usage measurements module located with in the signaling message routing node for polling the processing modules, for obtaining the peg count information, and for sending the peg count information to an external device via a TCP/IP connection. The general-purpose computing platform receives the peg count information via the TCP/IP connection.

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Nolting of generating any peg counts, not to mention generating peg counts at processing modules located within a signaling message routing node, using a usage

measurements module located within the signaling message routing node to poll the processing modules and obtain the peg counts from the processing modules within the signaling message routing node, or forwarding the peg counts to a general-purpose computing platform external to the signaling message routing node via a TCP/IP connection. As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that Nolting is not directed to peg counts at all. Rather, Nolting is directed to collecting call detailed records (CDRs). For example, Nolting states:

> The preferred embodiments of the present invention use real time monitors on selected common channel interoffice signaling links to collect messages related to set up and tear down of interconnect calls. A site processor complies data from the interoffice signaling messages relating to individual calls, to form call detail records for interconnect call attempts. (Emphasis added.) (See column 6, lines 46-51 of Nolting.)

From the above-quoted passage from Nolting, Nolting teaches that CDRs, rather than peg counts, are collected. As is as known to those of ordinary skill in the art, CDRs are lists of messages and message parameters related to a call while peg counts are counts of messages satisfying predetermined criteria. Accordingly, since Nolting has nothing to do with peg counts, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 41-44 as anticipated by Nolting should be withdrawn for this reason alone.

Moreover, the above-quoted passage from Nolting indicates another difference between the subject matter claimed in claim 41 and Nolting. For example, independent claim 41 recites that the plurality of processing modules and the usage measurements module are located within a signaling message routing node and that

the usage measurements module polls the processing modules, obtains the peg counts, and forwards the peg counts to a general-purpose computing platform external to the signaling message routing node via a TCP/IP connection. Even assuming for the sake of argument that the call detail records of Nolting could be considered peg counts, the above-quoted passage and the remaining disclosure in Nolting indicate that the call detail records are collected using real time monitors on selected common channel interoffice signaling links. In Figure 3 of Nolting, the real-time monitors are card cages **33**$_1$ and **33**$_2$ external to STPs **21** and **23** that collect signaling messages outside of the STP. Since the card cages are outside of the STPs, they cannot generate peg counts internal to a signaling message routing node and send those peg counts to a processing platform external to a signaling message routing node as claimed in claim 41. Accordingly, after this additional reason, the rejection of claims 41-44 as anticipated by Nolting should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-17 and 22-40 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103 (a) as unpatenable over Nolting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,226 to Torrey et al. (hereinafter, "Torrey"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 22 respectfully recite a method and system where a signaling message routing node includes a communication link module that receives a signaling message and generates and stores peg count information for the signaling message. A usage measurements module polls the communication link

module and obtains the peg count information. Both the communication link module and the usage measurements module are located within the signal message routing node. The usage measurements module forwards the peg count information to an external device over and IP communications link (claim 1) or over a high-speed communication link (claim 22). Thus, independent claims 1 and 22 are directed to a solution for getting internally-generated peg count information from communication link modules within a signaling message routing node, to a usage measurements module within the signaling message routing node, and from the usage measurements module to an external device.

As stated above with the regard to rejection of claim 41, Nolting fails to teach or suggest generating any peg counts, not to mention generating peg counts and forwarding peg counts from a processing module within a signaling message routing node to a usage measurements module within the signaling message routing node and to a device external to the signaling message node. Nolting is directed to a method for generating call detail records which are different from peg counts. Call detail records are listings of messages or message parameters related to call. In contrast, peg counts are counts of messages that satisfy predetermined criteria. For example, Nolting states:

> The call detail 5 for each call includes a wide variety of different items of information for the call. For example, the information may included calling and called part numbers, the time of the call, the duration of the call if completed, The type of release if terminated without completion, identification of office serving the call within each network, etc. (See column 9, line 57 - column 10 line 2 of Nolting.)

From this passage, Nolting indicates that call detail records include information about each call. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of generating peg counts, which are known of those of skill in the art to be counts of messages that satisfy predetermined criteria. Accordingly, for this reason alone, Nolting fails to teach the invention claim and independent claims 1 and 22.

Moreover, as stated above, independent claims 1 and 22 recite that the peg count information is generated by the communication link modules internal to the signal message routing node, the peg counts are forwarded to a usage measurements module internal to the signaling message routing node, and that the peg counts are forwarded from the usage measurements module to a platform external to the signaling message routing node. In contrast, the call detail records generated by Nolting are based on signaling messages collected by card cages **33_1** and **33_2** (See Figure 2 of Nolting) external to STPs **21** and **23**. Accordingly, because Nolting teaches external CDR generation, Nolting cannot possibly teach or suggest generating peg counts internal in to a signaling message routing node and forwarding that information out to a platform external to the signaling message routing node.

Torrey like wise fails to teach or suggest or generating peg counts at a communication link module internal to a signaling message routing node, forwarding that peg count information to a usage measurements module within the signaling message routing node, and forwarding the peg count information from the usage measurements module within the signaling message routing node to a device external to the signaling message routing node. Torrey is directed to a system that

caches number portability information to reduce query time. The examiner correctly notes that Torrey teaches generation of peg counts. For example, the Official Action cites column 13 lines 8-13 of Torrey, which states as follows:

> The LNP cache **108** responds to the query with the LRN. Also, the LNP cache **108** collects performance data of the query, including the DN, the LRN, the date and time of the query, any operation measures (OMs) and peg counts. The performance data is stored and/or compiled for the accounting system and the maintenance system.

The above-quoted passage from Torrey indicates that LNP cache **108** generates peg counts. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Torrey that LNP cache **108** is a communication link module within a signaling message routing node or that LNP cache **108** forwards the peg count information to a usage measurements module or from the usage measurements module to an external computing platform. In contrast to being part of a signaling massage routing node, LNP cache **108** is a component of a signaling processor **106**, which is a component of call routing system **104**. Signaling processor **106** is disclosed as being a signaling platform that can receive, process, and generate call signaling. (See column 7, lines 50 and 51 of Torrey.) Call routing system **104** is disclosed as being a system that processes call signaling to determine routes for user communications and to determine new call signaling. (See column 7, lines 45-47 of Torrey.) The functions of signaling processor **106** and call routing system **104** are those typically preformed by and end office switch and/or a database node, rather than signaling message routing node as claimed. For example, Torrey states that call routing system makes connections for its user communications. (See column 7, lines 47-49 of Torrey.) Connections for user

communications are bearer channel connections. The function of connecting bearer channels is typically preformed by an end office switch. An end office switch is not a signaling message routing node because end office switches originate and terminate, rather than route, messages. Torrey also indicates that signaling processor **106** determines whether a lookup is required in LNP cache **108**, which is typically preformed by a database node, such as an SCP. An SCP is not a signaling message routing node because it terminates and responds to queries instead of routing signaling messages. Accordingly, because Torrey teaches that LNP cache **108** is a component of a device that performs bearer channel setup and LNP database lookups, Torrey fails to teach generating peg counts at a signaling message routing node that routes received signaling messages between other nodes as claimed.

Moreover, even assuming for the sake of argument that call routing system **104** or signaling processor **106** of Torrey could be considered a signaling message routing node, there is no teaching or suggestion in Torrey of forwarding the peg count information generated by LNP cache **108** to a usage measurements module within the signaling message routing node and from the usage measurements module to a general-purpose computing platform external to the signaling message routing node. The references to peg counts in Torrey indicate that the LNP cache generates and stores peg counts but do not indicate how the peg counts are communicated off-platform. Accordingly, for this additional reason, the rejections of the claims as unpatentable over Nolting in view of Torrey should be withdrawn.

When the disclosures of Nolting and Torrey are combined, the result is a CDR generation system that uses external card cages to collect messages and an LNP cache that generates peg counts for LNP queries. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of generating peg counts at a communication link module within a signaling message routing node, polling the communication link module and forwarding the peg counts to a usage measurement module, or forwarding the peg counts to a platform external to the signaling routing node as claimed. Accordingly, for all these reasons the rejections of claims 1-17 and 22-40 as unpatentable over Nolting in view of Torrey should be withdraw.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-21 are allowed. A clarifying amendment has been made to claim 18 to correct an antecedent basis error. However, the clarifying amendment does not materially change the scope of claim 18. Hence, these claims should remain allowed.

New Claims

New claims 45-50 are added. Support for new claims 45-50 is found, for example on page 3, lines 14-25 and page 14, lines 19-23 of the present speciation. New claims 45-47 depend from either claim 1, claim 22, or claim 41. New claims 45-50 are believed to be patentable over references cited in the Official Action for the

reasons stated above with regard to the independent claims and for the additional elements recited in claims 45-50.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

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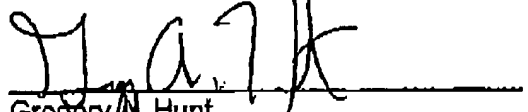
Date: February 6, 2006 By: 

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